Dublin Nov. 20. 1857

My dear Friend — I seem fated to have difficulty
about the Bazaar Box from [illegible] — I wrote to Grace
to say that I wished the Box sent by Steam Ship, he
replied saying he was sorry that I was too late, for it
had been forwarded by a liner, of which I send you
the bill of lading. Last year he made the same mis-
take, & there was great lamentation — but it happened
to arrive in time for the fair. I fear it will be a
close run this time, and that I will get blame for
the disappointment. As it is I suppose necessary
you should have the bill of lading I take the opportu-
nity to send you a letter and to tell you of a matter
that I leave to your discretion as to what had better
be done to protect my reputation in the matter.

About a year ago, or perhaps more, I had a letter
from W. L. Garrison, introducing to me a man named
L. G. Gilbert, as the author of an admirable book on Slavery
which he came over here to publish. The letter was
sent to me enclosed in one from Lpool from Mr G. him-
self inviting me to go over to see his plates, proofs &c. This
I could not do, but I wrote inviting him to my house if
he wished to see me, & offering him any advice that my
experience would enable me to give. He thanked me,
saying he had to go on to London — but would probably
see me in a few weeks. The next time I heard from
him was about the beginning of September when he walked
into my office at a time that I was excessively engaged about
some business that had for some time past engrossed all
my attention — owing to an extraordinary pressure of business
whilst my son was ill of fever & my wife ~~had been~~ engaged
in nursing him. Mr G. had been in America since I
saw him before — he showed me highly laudatory letters re-
specting his work in the handwriting of Messrs Garrison, Phillips,
& Greeley — and asked me to go to his hotel to see his woodcuts
& proofs which he brought over for the purpose. I asked him to
~~him~~ lodge at my house — no — to dinner — no — he did not wish
to give trouble, & would go back that night to Liverpool. The
end of a very long talk was that he asked me for a loan
of £50 to enable him to complete his arrangements for publi-

cation. I told him I must take time to think of it, as he wanted me to endorse J. Haughton & Richard Allen to pass in the loan. – He returned to Liverpool that evening & when he got to London I had several other letters preparing for the loan, & the end of the correspondence was that I sent him the money on his note at two months which he went fraudulently presented & ~~[illegible]~~ met in due season.

When the note was written about three weeks ago, he wrote to me, that, in about ten days ago, he wrote to me that the American crisis had upset all his plans – that nobody would touch anything or have anything to do with the repetition he had ever had any thing to do with the subject – & seemed in very great distress of mind & heart & seemed in very great distress of mind & heart & anxious to get him, but had no means. He asked me to advance him £200 on this security of his plates, &c. He try & raise the price of a ticket by the Cunard liner among my friends. I told him that I really expected the note would be met & as the money was not forthcoming & he had left Liverpool & had not left either & he at the same, I repeated having had not lent either him or the same, I repeated having lent it – and that not asking my friends to advance a Cunard cabin ticket to a man they had never heard of, & who was anxious above all things to remain unknown, the thing was impossible – they would think me crazy. This made him very angry – he said I made too much fuss about my money – that it was shameful to speak as I did about the Cunard ticket & that the loss of the money was entirely like a cankers into my mind & prejudicing me against him. For several days together I had large letters from him full of anger & entreaty – telling me repeatedly that I was mad & crazed & demented & different from him in opinion – that I was a cold minded man – & the sum of cold & contradictory talk – but on the whole exceedingly insulting & aggravating & painful. In the whole course of my life, in all the other letters put together, I have not that I have received, I never

was treated to such an amount of intolerably offensive language. Having expressed some disapprobation of his mode of doing business in two of my letters, I repeated in the text, seeing that any difference only could be in mind — I confined myself to saying that I would not aid others to help him on his argument — & that I could not do so myself. I said what is true that I am not an affluent man & that I could not in fairness to myself or my family, lend money to a stranger to any such extent. His latter letters have been in fact of distress, as ours — but his urgency came down to an entreaty for a loan of £10 to enable him to get home. Last evening I sent him an order for the £10 & I hope he may be able to get home & settle matters there.

Now I might tell you that I am firmly persuaded that he is an honest man, that he has no scheming intentions — that I think him a genuine inventor — that his books seems to me worthy of the praise it has got — and that all the other things I heard him say about the cause & friends of ours — is contained in what I believe to be the truth. I think he has made a mistake in his mode of publishing & in his expenditure of money in printing, proofs, plates, wood cuts, &c. I think it was downright folly to spend money until he had made arrangements with a publisher. I think he has a clear appreciation of the true state of things in the United States and that his perception of the people who are about to be relied upon is correct — but he is self confident, vain, and uncommunicative to an extraordinary degree. I have never had to do with so rude a man — and such a remarkable style, a mixture of fawning

from a stranger. He is most remarkably secretive. Nearly all his letters are marked <u>confidential</u>. He professes great dread of its being known he has employed these both in which sects & parties are handled "without mittens". I gave as my reason for declining to speak to R. G. & Hampton that unless they knew all about him, they could lend him nothing in any case; that I did not think it likely they would lend at all; that they are not friends of <u>secret-keepers</u>; that I would not like to be a party to asking any one to lend money which they might lose. I am sure nothing of these gentlemen would be at all offended to me if I did so. Though they are both very good people in their way.

Fellows has sent me his note at 3 months for the money, which he has assured me in the most solemn manner shall be paid. I think he will pay if he can. If he doesn't, I must only make the best of the matter. I lend you the note which you will please hold over against the time it becomes due — & if I hear any more from him, I will write to you. You will remember that besides the £50 there is £60 for which (as it was sent only yesterday) I have got no acknowledgment. For the money when originally lent I asked no interest nor any compliment — altho' he has been profuse in his praises of both. I often think I have been a fool all through this affair — but if I am deceived & done by this man, I will not be readily induced by any man's aid or the letter he brings to lend money again. I must say that no claim is made for any such accommodation in any of his letters. I accommodated him as a stranger, in a strange land with letters from persons for whom I have as much respect as I have for any living man. I leave the matter in your hands to do the best you can for me. Mr J. seems very desirous that these arrangements should not be known at head quarters in Boston — he seems to me to have the highest respect for the fastidious abhorrence of selfish behaviour, manners and temper for any one else

he has begged me for my own sake to say nothing of our dealings to any American friends — he says it will be best for himself — he will raise the money by hook or by crook when he gets home — & will not wait for the bill to become due. I don't know how this may be — But from the whole tenor of his behaviour I do not feel bound to act according to his directions in all things. I wonder what you will say to all this — you will probably think me soft or silly. However if this man meets his engagements to me I will not regret having helped him to this extent — but certainly among all the disbursements I ever had to do with, he is the most unpracticable & far the most disagreeable. Regard W. Leigh & W. Phillips I would not mention the matter mentioned — & I leave it to your discretion whether you think it necessary to speak to them.

If L.S.S. should in a month or two or before the bill becomes due, send me the money, I will write to you immediately. The correspondence with him within the last ten days is a most extraordinary sample of what a man out of temper with himself & with circumstances, can put upon paper for the embarrassment of those who have to do with him.

I would like to have some arrangement with you about postage. My opinion is that when I write for on matters of business connected with the Society, the

Lowell should pay the postage. But so when the letter is entirely written on my own affairs. Now I have to send them bills of lading & I would not write if I had not to forward them. As I lay out a good deal incidentally I would like those items sent immediately since to take on the right shoulders & I dont want them to take upon them. I know you write to me whether there is any such fund, if so if there is not, I will cheerfully prepay my letters.

Yesterday came a prepaid letter from J. M. McKim which he told me he knew was overweight – but he did not happen to put on enough stamps – he put on 24 cents – so I had to pay two shillings, the fine double postage. His stamps went for nothing. Now I fear you will think me a grumbling fellow – but I think it wise to mention these things which prevent ~~the~~ their needless recurrence

I am glad you were amused by my letter about the British Association – as to the talk you mention about the Parsonstown orbit it was the most of mine perpetrated on purpose – I was not at Parsonstown – but I enjoyed the account of it that I heard from others & in so far participated in their pleasure

I hear from J. M. McKim that Phillips & Lanning & all our friends in Boston are not much the worse of the passage. I hope you are safe

I had a letter from Miss Cutler & one from Mrs Lathrop a few days ago – we were particular were staying with them

I heard from Eliza Wetmore today. She is a charming body. Her letter are the kind you ~~better~~ ~~to~~ letters to copy into the commonplace. I wish I could write in such a pleasant & gentlemanly style as you are master of

Yours ever truly

Mark Blair